(e) and (f) The implementation of the Consumer Protection is reviewed in every meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council. So far, 12 meetings of the Council have been held and the last meeting was held on 19.1.1993. In the last meeting, the subjects of the enforcement of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and Consumer Welfare Fund were discussed.

Prices of essential commodities

2300. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the increase/decrease in the prices of essential commodities during April, 1992-January, 1993;

(b) the manner in which these compare with the increase/decrease during the same period of 1991-92; and

(c) the steps being taken to control rise in prices of essential commodities/consumer goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities during April, 92-Jan. 93 and April, 91-Jan. 92 is attached (*See* below).

(c) The Government is taking every possible step to control the prices of essential commodities within reasonable limits. Towards this end, a Cabinet Committee on Prices (CCP) and a Special Action Committee of Secretary on Monitoring of Prices (SACP) are functioning to review the price situation in the country and to take appropriate steps to keep the rise in prices of essential commodities under check. Public Distribution System is being strengthened and streamlined to reach its benefits even to remote, far-flung, hilly and inaccesible areas. Steps are also being taken to implement the provisions of Essential Commodities Act and other statutory regulations to punish the antisocial elements including hoarders, black marketeers etc. The commodities which are in short supply such as rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils, etc. are being imported to make their easy availability in the market. Based on the input cost the Government has been announcing higher minimum support/procurement prices of agro-based products. There has been a higher production of Kharif Crops and nearly record production of Edible Oil seeds. As a result of all these measures, the annual rate of inflation, measured in terms of percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Index has come down to 7.3 per cent as on 20.2.1993 from 13.6 per cent as on 28.3.1992 and 14.6 per cent as on 30.11.1991.

Statement

Percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities during April, 92—January, 93 and April, 91—January, 92

Commodity	Percentage Variation	
	January, 93 April, 92	January, 92 April, 91
Rice	+0.3	+29·8
Wheat	+2·7	+22.2
Jowar	—18·5	+60·6
Bajra	—31·2	+62.5
Gram	+27.2	—0.4
Arhar	—3.6	+18·4
Moong	—4·2	+16.5
Masoor	0.5	+2·8
Urad	—12·8	+7.2
Potatoes	—8.7	+2·5
Onions	+130.1	—44.1
Milk	+9.6	+9.1
Fish	+40.3	+16.3
Mutton	+10.8	+2.6
Chillies	—14.4	+103.0
Tea	+26.2	+6.2
Coke	Steady	+34·6
Kerosene	Steady	—9·1
Atta	+7.2	+17.5
Sugar	+3.5	+19.5
Gur	+33.9	— 3.4
Salt	—3.0	+22.3
Vanaspati	—6.5	+7.3
Mustard Oil	—10.9	+18.2
Coconut Oil	+5.3	+37.0
Groundnut Oil	—17.5	+2.5
Cotton Cloth (Mills)	+3.0	+11·4
Laundry Soap	+3.7	+48·9
Safety Matches	+4.3	+3.0
ALL COMMODITIES	+5·9	+12.5